



# COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

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*COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER is published six times a year by Community Service, Inc. Our purpose is to promote the small community as a basic social institution involving organic units of economic, social and spiritual development.*

## intentional communities and alternative groups

*Every year Community Service receives letters and newsletters describing various intentional communities and new age educational organizations. The following are edited excerpts from a sample of those which have recently come across the editor's desk.*

### TWIN STREAMS

Adult Residential Education for Democratic Social Change

Twin Streams Educational Center is based on the folk high school idea which had its beginnings in Denmark in the 1800s when that country was in a period of national crisis. The folk schools provided a place for people to come to grips with the problems of the times and develop a spirit of unity in working through these social and economic problems in a residential setting.

The first priority for Twin Streams is to provide opportunities for groups to meet, share their common concerns and begin the process of engaging in organizational and community problem solving. From free exchange of ideas and beliefs and through discussions and sharing provided by the residential setting, individuals can gain insight into problems and a sense of self-reliance in relation to those problems. The particular interests and concerns of each workshop group will determine the nature of the educational experience.

The 1980's are challenging communities and working groups and will provide the shape for the center's activities in meeting the crisis of support and resource development felt by low income and working groups and individuals. Twin Streams is continuing already initiated non-formal adult education with the developing worker/owner groups in the area. For more information write Weston A. Hare, Twin Streams, 243 Flemington Rd., Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514 (919) 929-3316.

### OAK GROVE COMMUNITY

Cooperative Quaker Community

Oak Grove, now in the development stage, is designed to be an innovative, cooperative community, with a Quaker orientation toward experimentation and concern with social issues. Consisting of a farmhouse and 83 acres of land, the farm is located on the east side of the Blue Ridge Mountains 55 miles west of both Washington and Baltimore on Sun Ridge in Virginia. Five to seven houses can be built on Oak Grove. At least 50 acres of the land can be formed into a land trust with small house plots and the remainder of the 50 acres used in common.

In the first stage of Oak Grove's development, the building of the first solar house and the reclaiming of the farm has been the primary focus. The house, with passive solar heat

and two bedrooms was completed in 1980. A camping grove with tent platforms and tipis is being set up for persons interested in both three-season camping and giving some assistance to farm reclamation. Quakers, friends and a school are among those participating. One or two land plots will soon be offered for sale, or for barter in return for help in developing the farm.

In the second stage, they expect the completion of 5 to 7 houses with various alternative energy components.

Thereafter, in the third stage, they foresee the development of small projects on Oak Grove and in the general Quaker Mountain area, including experimental farms, an institute and a conference center. Oak Grove Farm, Quaker Mountain and the general area settled by Quakers, with four nearby Friends Meetings, offer great potential for social and other experiments - in agriculture, appropriate technology, alternative energy, tree crops, appropriate shelter and permaculture. The head waters of one creek and the mountain gap offer prospects for water and wind power. Oak Grove will soon be incorporated as a non-profit corporation. For further information write Oak Grove, Rt. 1, Box 180-A, Round Hill, Virginia 22141. (703)338-7779.

#### JUBILEE PARTNERS

##### Refugee Orientation Program

Jubilee Partners is a Christian service community in northeast Georgia. It was established in 1979 on 260 acres of beautiful meadows, woods, creeks, and ponds.

The tragedy of the Southeast Asian "boat people" soon caught the attention of the Jubilee people, and a decision was made to build a special Welcome Center for the refugees.

In the fall of 1980 the facilities were ready for the first refugees - 39 "boat people" from Cuba. Then came families from Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. By the end of 1981 more than 140 refugees had come through Jubilee. Working in close cooperation with various church agencies, Jubilee serves as interim sponsor for the refugees when they first arrive in this country.

For about six weeks the refugees spend eighteen hours a week studying English in small classes. There are also special classes in subjects such as nutrition, cooking, family planning, sewing,

and banking. Perhaps the most important experience is the opportunity for the new arrivals to participate in the life of the Jubilee community, getting acquainted at a gentle pace with American culture while still in the company of other people from their own.

By the time they leave Jubilee the typical refugee child is able to enter public school and their parents are usually ready to cope with the basic demands of employment and running a household. They are still far from being "settled into" American society, but they are past the most difficult stage.

Meanwhile, Jubilee works to identify and prepare the sponsors who will take over where the orientation program leaves off. Sponsors are most often comprised of action committees within the supportive framework of church congregations. The sponsor's job is to provide supportive friendship for the refugees, helping them to find a place to live, employment, and providing a general introduction to their new community.

Expenses at Jubilee are met by tax-deductible donations and non-interest loans as well as by partial reimbursements from church agencies for services rendered. Operating expenses are kept to a minimum by the communal living of the largely volunteer staff, inspired by the model of the early Christian church "in whose fellowship no one was in need."

For further information write Jubilee Partners, P.O. Box 274, Comer, GA 30629. (404) 783-5244.

#### BONNIE HAVEN INN

##### Holistic Retirement Home

An unusual new type of senior citizen retirement home is making headlines nationally. Opening in the long famous health resort retirement town of Hendersonville, North Carolina, the Bonnie Haven Inn has been converted from a summer sanctuary for health-minded vacationers to a year-round home for positive thinking, academic-minded people who also share an interest in holistic health and self care.

Since the Bonnie Haven Inn can only accommodate up to 26 people in the 7,000 sq. ft. building, there is an on-going waiting list. For further information write Mrs. Irene Serra, Bonnie Haven Inn, 1314 Hyman Ave., Hendersonville, NC 28739. (404) 973-5259.

## SUNFLOWER FARM

### Workshop Series

A series of Living/Learning Workshops on more self-sufficient, cooperative lifestyles are being offered by Sunflower Farm, a rural cooperative community in southeastern Ohio. Workshop themes include: "An Introduction to Building Your Own Low Cost Home," "Problems and Solutions in Community Living," "Alternative Economics and Work Projects," and more. For further information write Bruce Sabel, Sunflower Farm, Rt. 1, Box 90, Amesville, Ohio 45711.



## PONDEROSA VILLAGE

### Energy Conservation and Self Sufficiency

Ponderosa Village is a planned community that is emphasizing self-reliance, cooperation, community togetherness, and increased security from possible economic and social deterioration. It has over 1,000 acres located in a stable agricultural area, only 4 miles from Goldendale, Washington, the County seat of Klickitat County.

The goal of this community is to move toward a positive future in several ways: opportunities to live more self-reliant lives; participation in a way of life and a community that will be more sustainable over the long run; inclusion of a learning center for hands-on experience in various aspects of self-reliance, cooperation, community, and personal growth; creation of a community model which can assist others in creating a similar way of life.

Those who live in Ponderosa Village are working to lessen the need for energy by living in earth-sheltered and other types of energy-conservative houses; to produce energy from alternate sources of sun, wind and biomass; to produce their own food by use of greenhouse, hydroponics, permaculture, and intensive gardening; to acquire necessary technical skills and how-to-do-it knowledge; to work toward the actualization of each individual and the development of satisfying and effective interpersonal relationships.

For further information write Ponderosa Village, Rt. 1, Lot 17, Goldendale, Washington 98620. (509) 773-3902.

## HEARTWOOD

### California College of the Natural Healing Arts

Heartwood is a non-profit community service organization dedicated to the field of natural health education. Its primary goal is to provide a center for research, study and living the philosophies and practices of preventive health care and health enhancement.

Its commitment is to excellence in natural health education, to foster increasing levels of competence, refinement and professionalism in preventive health care and to establish a bridge between the sensibilities of the natural health care community and the mainstream of health practitioners.

Heartwood is located on a 200 acre mountain top retreat 20 miles east of Garberville, California. Their tiny mountain (2200 feet) offers inspiring views, unspoiled beauty, wildlife, swimming pool, hot tub, sauna, volleyball, and hiking with housing for over 80 residents amidst the rolling hills.

For further information write Bruce Burger, N.D., President, Heartwood College, 220 Harmony Lane, Garberville, CA 95440. (707) 923-2021.

## DOREA

### Christian Peace Community

Dorea Peace Community consists of five families who have come together to live more faithfully the Christian life of peace, love and witness. The community lives as one economic and nurturing unit, offering mutual support and sharing with others in need.

In order to move in the direction of peace, this community hopes to grow as a model of alternative lifestyles and Christian faith. Its first priority is working toward nuclear disarmament. Its members include in this action, resistance to the federal war tax, draft counseling, non-violent conflict resolution and disarmament education. The people of the community offer written and personal resources for draft counseling, war tax resistance, growth in interpersonal relationships and conflict resolution, childbirth education, and land reform.

For further information write Maxim K. Rice, Dorea Peace Community, R.R. #2, Box 161, Turtle Lake, Wisconsin 54889. (715) 268-8748.

## HEALING LIGHT FOUNDATIONS

### Computer Based Networking Service

Healing Light Foundations has been in the field of intentional community and holistic health support for over four and a half years. It is now active primarily as a computer based networking service in Southern Arizona, attempting to strengthen and maintain the nationwide scope it has chosen for its activities. Healing Light has fostered and supported holistic health events and centers through providing publicity and promotional aid, networking services, personnel support, and by the organizing of seminars and classes.

The Foundation's office and several members are also part of a small organic farming community which is supportive of social community innovations and experiments. Part of their work includes the attempt to aid existing and forming communities with their own experiences and through their networking service capabilities.

For further information write Richard Fox, Healing Light Foundations, Box 205, Ft. Thomas, AZ 85536.



## SIRIUS COMMUNITY

### Appropriate Technology and New Age Politics

Sirius Community began in August 1978 with inner direction to buy 86 acres of forest, fields and several buildings near Amherst, Massachusetts. From their experience as members of the Findhorn Community in Scotland, and from visiting over 50 communities and groups around the United States, members of SIRIUS, learned a great deal about community living and its power of transformation.

They are developing practical applications of spiritual principles in everyday life and skills for living lightly on the earth - to reduce consumption, develop appropriate technology and live a more healthy and whole lifestyle in har-

mony with the forces of nature. Sirius is now a family of 12 full-time members, 2 associate members and 9 children, as well as a number of friends who form an extended family in the nearby area. They are exploring new patterns of governing themselves through an egalitarian group process, where inspiration and leadership can come from any member of the community.

In working with a national new age political alliance and an energy committee in their local town, the members are giving outer political expression to their inner values. They are also continuing to help develop a regional network of new age groups and communities - the New England Network of Light - to exchange ideas, skills and educational programs.

For further information write Sirius, P.O. Box 388, Amherst, MA 01004. (413) 256-8015.

## ALPHA FARM

### Community Networking

Alpha Farm is a residential community in Deadwood, Oregon, which continues to grow and prosper. Since its beginning, Alpha has felt that it was not an isolated phenomenon but a seed in a larger movement that was perhaps not only national but planetary. This year, more than before, the community was brought into contact with groups and individuals both nationally and internationally who are working actively to bring about a world safe for humanity.

The community was honored with two visits by Peter Caddy, co-founder of Findhorn Community in Scotland, who shared his experience of 17 years of community and his planetary perspective. The attendance of several community members at the Human Unity Conference in Vancouver, B.C. in July helped them to better understand their alignment with many international groups out of which came the formation of the Universal Unity Foundation. Representatives of the community attended the Earth Community Network meeting, an organization linking communities on the West Coast, and the Rainbow Gathering in eastern Washington. The community also organizes regular meetings and work exchanges with communities and interested individuals in their own Oregon Coast Range area under the auspices of ComeUnity, the Northwestern communities organization.

For further information write Alpha Farm, Deadwood, Oregon 97430.

## S.E.A.D.S. OF TRUTH

### Solar Energy Awareness and Demonstration Seminars

In Harrington, Maine, the not-for-profit corporation, S.E.A.D.S. of Truth (Solar Energy Awareness and Demonstration Seminars), has begun to establish an energy and food self-sufficient community dedicated to promoting environmentally sound alternative living. It is in its very earliest stages but has already reached dozens of individuals through its "hands on" seminars and apprenticeship programs.

S.E.A.D.S. believes that practical experience is the way to long lasting understanding, and individuals choosing to work and learn with it are involved in a variety of living and working experiments.

The property is 90 acres of woods, bordered by streams, with one house. The folks at S.E.A.D.S. have designed and constructed original alternative energy projects (solar food dryer, water wheel, solar greenhouse) in their effort to achieve energy self-sufficiency. Because they wish to make alternative energy technology available to everyone, regardless of income, their projects are designed with simple "do-it-yourself" construction techniques and low cost materials.

Many of their people are inventive energy technologists, but they would like to place an additional emphasis on home food production both in the summer garden and in the greenhouse. As they strive towards food self-sufficiency, S.E.A.D.S. will provide room and board for apprentices interested in taking a share of the responsibility in this developing educational community.

They invite individuals and families looking for a community to settle in to come and discover if life with S.E.A.D.S. of Truth in rural coastal Maine is to their liking. More information is available from Linda DiGiorgio, S.E.A.D.S. of Truth, Inc., 136 A Georgetown Road, Harrington, Maine 04643. (207)483-9763.



## Community Service Conference 1982

HUMAN ECOLOGY  
Becoming Agents of Change

William S. Becker, author and journalist, will be the key speaker at this year's Community Service Conference July 16-18 in Yellow Springs, Ohio. He will explore with us a theory of national defense and foreign policy based on community self-sufficiency, decentralization and renewable energy systems.

Mr. Becker has traveled widely to talk on the future of communities, solar development and other topics on the general theme of community-scale transformation.

As publisher of a weekly newspaper in the small Wisconsin town of Soldiers Grove, Mr. Becker was instrumental in turning a disheartened, flood-ravaged village into an ecologically and socially concerned community which can boast the nation's first solar-heated central business district.

A description of the Soldiers Grove experience, accompanied by a slide presentation Saturday night will be offered as an example of what one community has done and how its actions to secure its own future have had national implications.

For further information about the conference and registration forms, write or call Community Service, P.O. Box 243, Yellow Springs, OH 45387. 513/767-2161 or 767-1461.

# Global Networking

by Rick King

The Human Species now finds itself in a position to determine its own future. Our activities now have substantial impact on our Global life support system, we have learned to tamper with the genetic mechanisms of our own seed, and our power to manipulate physical reality to our purposes has multiplied more in the last 50 years than in the preceding 50 millennia. I wonder what the next 5 years will be like?

We all have a common interest in making wise decisions concerning Global issues. This is unprecedented in known history. We have never had to think this way before, and we obviously don't have our act together yet. But we are blessed with extraordinary abilities to adapt our thinking when necessity demands. And necessity now demands as never before.

Whether Human Nature derives from God or Evolution or both, our greatest resource is our Human creative imagination. We have accomplished nothing on this planet that did not originate in someone's imagination, and so far we have just been bumbling along, an infant species learning to use its new gifts, bumping into each other, and gradually learning that two heads are better than one.

So far, only the tiniest fraction of available creative imagination has been applied to the Global issues before us. Faced with such an enormous challenge to adapt, our species will inevitably begin marshalling the necessary resources, and in fact has begun.

Telephone and Television now provide virtually every imagination with instant Global communication, information concerning Global events, artistic creations of dazzling quality, and rapid feedback about our efforts to deal with our problems.

Another phase of adaptation has quietly, and spontaneously been occurring over the last decade: Grass-Roots networks of every description have been springing up like daisies all over the world. Marilyn Ferguson has documented this process in her monumental book, *THE AQUARIAN CONSPIRACY*. The dust jacket flap begins: "A great shuddering irrevocable shift is overtaking us. It is not a new political, religious, or economic system. It is a new mind - a turnabout

in consciousness in critical numbers of individuals, a network powerful enough to bring about radical change in our culture..." The book confirms my own experience with many networks around the country.

In our highly regulated society the struggle for existence of these networks has challenged the creative imaginations of the Networking pioneers, who now constitute a valuable Human resource - innovative, experienced People determined to explore better ways of living on this planet.

Although each group has its own ideas and strategies, there is a clear pattern that the most successful in making their visions reality are those who best cultivate and respect individual creativity, personal growth, and self-determination. They constitute working experiments confirming that Human Beings interacting in voluntary concert, drawn together by common interests, are more successful than authority structured groups with forced participation and obedience. It's bound to catch on.

In a few words, following your own drummer will lead you to a band that's playing your tune, and all bands are nourished according to the appeal of their music.

Predictably, the advent of affordable personal computer technology and telecommunications hasn't gone unnoticed by the Networking pioneers. We have begun Telenetworking the World. The Global cortex of the Mass Mind is adapting to the pressure to evolve.

The sooner and better we implement appropriate technology, and use it appropriately, the sooner we will be playing with a full deck, and can get out of the mess we're in.



# Mitraniketan, India

## LETTER FROM VISWANATHAN

*Excerpts from K. Viswanathan's letter of January 1982.*

*In 1954 K. Viswanathan, affectionately known to his friends in America as Viswan, spent about 8 months living with Arthur and Lucy Morgan in Yellow Springs and working at a nearby orchard. Viswan was inspired by Arthur Morgan to return to his home near Trivandrum, Kerala, South India, to start an educational community which he called Mitraniketan, "abode of friends."*

*Community Service has sent moral and financial support to Mitraniketan over the years. The following letter from Director Viswanathan tells of Mitraniketan's recovery from its latest vicissitudes which last year caused its school to be closed.*

I have not realized how fast the time passed since I last wrote to Community Service. To my surprise I found on my table an unfinished letter to be sent to Community Service three months back. Due to my sudden illness, suspected chest pain, I was rushed to the hospital where I spent nearly two weeks to find out that I have no heart trouble. It was only a rib inflammation besides my usual diabetes which gives me trouble every now and then. However, I am very active physically and mentally these days after restoring the normal peaceful atmosphere here.

We have restarted some of the sections such as the Children's program and the Hostel for school going girls. They are in full swing. Now in the absence of formal school set up both primary and secondary, the centre is paying more attention to training among farmers, farm women, youth and artisans. It enables them to organize themselves into co-operative or small associations to help themselves collectively. Hence we don't take on the burden to look after their affairs and to render all kinds of free support which became misleading or made them unduly dependent. The past agitation and Trade Union activities have opened our eyes to be careful in the selection of people and in extending support. As we are not at present bogged down by regular school education work, which had been the largest spending program, we have plenty of time and opportunity to concentrate

in other major areas of importance, i.e. in integrated development and education.

The cattle upgrading program we took up as one of Mitraniketan's extension works some years ago even before the government stepped into this area. I am proud to say from one and one half litres, now it has risen to 7 to 15 litres of milk per cross-bred cow. We are now maintaining three high pedigree stud bulls -- two holstein and one jersey -- for artificial insemination. The Dairy Society we have organized for marketing the excess milk available in Vellanad is one of the best societies in Trivandrum District which has become a model for other areas to organize similar societies. Mitraniketan still maintains ten cattle breeding centres in ten different areas apart from supplying semen to other areas among farmers who keep cows. The poultry and goat units are also keeping good strains of birds and goats to raise the quality. In this region motivation or awareness is no problem; what is needed is better know-how and service facilities. Right now concentration is on providing marketing and other service facilities for farmers. Service includes storage facilities for farm produces, making improved farm implements for use, training them to adopt latest techniques, etc.

Because of the peculiar land holding system, holdings are becoming smaller and smaller, scattered and fragmented. In this area alone 80% of the people own less than one acre. Hence the cropping pattern of these holdings is also different. How to generate maximum income from minimum holding is the need of the day. We are trying to promote Agro-Socio-forestry type of vegetation by taking into consideration the echo system and the environment. Contour bunding and bench terracing, etc., for soil conservation and irrigation arrangement through wells, tanks and lift systems also help to improve the agricultural practice in this area. We have been able to make substantial contributions in this regard. Some of the credit co-operatives organized have come up very well to encourage a saving mentality and credit practice at a low rate of interest among farmers.

Right now we have 30 tribal couples undergoing training in integrated development for a period of one month. It is a trial and we find it very encouraging. Before they take to different cultivation, they get training in cow-keeping, poultry, goatry, agri-horticulture, health, food and nutrition, home management, etc. After reviewing this program by the end of this month

we shall again conduct training for another group with necessary modification in the content and methods adopted for the first batch. They will also be followed in the field practice by our technical personnel.

Similarly in health, after Dr. Jean Kohler, there has been a long gap, as no doctor was available to come into her place in a rural setting. Then we had one doctor, a local person from Trivandrum City coming in during the day-time thrice a week. But this was no attraction to the villagers, in spite of his experience, as he was not regularly available on the spot. Then came another young doctor ready to stay here. There were enough patients coming, but he too had to leave as he was awarded a fellowship for higher studies. Now at last we have got a Senior Doctor having a lot of experience by working in major government hospitals as head administrator, Dr. A. G. Thomas, formerly Additional Director of Health Service, Kerala State. In the beginning two months we have had to allow him to come every day after which he has agreed to stay here. We hope to take up again comprehensive rural health, and family welfare apart from curative health programs. The Dr. Jean Kohler Fund has promised to send \$200 every month and we should find the sources for the rest. The total expenditure at present comes to Rs. 8000 per month. We are trying to make it break even by charging those who can afford it on the basis of their ability to pay. I think we can do it in the long run, if we can circumvent the present problems.

We also encourage retired senior persons to stay in the community as paying guests. Right now one of the Mitraniketan Director Board Members, a senior public figure, leader, literary figure and leading journalist who was the Resident Editor of our foremost Malayalam National daily, is residing here with his wife, a former Member of Parliament during Nehru's period. This program also brings some income much needed for Mitraniketan. We intend to add a few cottages for such persons on the premises where they can live peacefully. They also get necessary attention.

Sri. A. P. Udayabhanu is the name of the person who was one of the sources of inspiration for me to come to the public life. He was the youngest member in legislature at that time and an active lawyer and political leader with great integrity and character. Besides being an M.I.A., he held many top official positions in the political organization. Gradually he came

away and devotes now his entire time as editor of newspapers, literary magazine, etc. He is also influenced by Gandhiji and he is unpolluted in all means. He and his wife staying here are a great moral strength and support for our work, as he takes a lot of interest in our efforts. As a prolific and effective writer, he also helps us to get more publicity. Although he has retired as an editor after 10 to 15 years of service, regularly he contributes to leading newspapers and magazines.

He plans now a trip around the world. I think we could take advantage of this if he could visit some of the individuals to renew contacts and apprise the present situation of our country, organizations and institutions which are interested in Mitraniketan, and also in world peace, etc. He is an excellent writer and speaker both in English and Malayalam apart from being a journalist of high order. Sri. N. K. Madhavan Nair would like to accompany him.

There might be some arrangement for hospitality in Europe, USA, and other countries they may visit. They could participate in group discussions and talks also. Please write to me your views about this proposal to process it further with your green signal. I thought of contacting Pendle Hill and Community Church of New York for this reason after hearing from you.

We are expecting a large group of Puget Sound University students from Tacoma, Washington, towards the last week of February this year. Also, Cynthia Bowles, younger daughter of Mr. Chester Bowles, former American Ambassador to India, is expected here next week to spend a month with us.

More later. With warm regards to one and all.

--K. Viswanathan, Mitraniketan, India



# Money to Lend

COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COUNCIL, INC.

By Jane Morgan

On Sunday, March 21st, the Community Educational Service Council, Inc., (formerly the Homer Morris Loan Fund) held its 29th annual membership and Board meeting at Bryn Gweled Community, Southampton, Pennsylvania, at the home of Marjorie and John Ewbank.

John Ewbank, Herb Goldstein, Daniel Loubert, and Jane Morgan, all members of Community Service, were reappointed for two year terms to the Board of Directors of C E S C I. The most important business, besides going over outstanding loans, was making members present aware that C E S C I had not had many requests for loans lately and figuring out how C E S C I could get the message out to communities that it has about \$14,000 available to lend on hand now. This money can be lent in short-term, small loans to intentional communities which want to borrow up to \$3,000 maximum to start small businesses or enterprises. The interest and service charge together will not exceed 10%. The Board agreed to get this message out to various networks of communities.

These funds are made available to well-established communities and are primarily to enable the group to purchase raw materials such as fertilizer or seed for crops, or materials for some project which will result in saleable commodities that would bring a return to the community and render the group more self-sufficient. Examples are use of the funds to purchase rope for hammock-making or nuts for nut butter products. C E S C I does not lend funds for mortgage purposes.

As usual this C E S C I annual business meeting was held in conjunction with an informal gathering of people from intentional communities on Saturday, March 20th, which this year was held at Bryn Gweled Community Center. About a dozen people gathered from different communities to hear John Hostebler speak on "What Communities Can Learn From Older Religious Communities."

C E S C I now has 501(c)(3) status with the IRS. Intentional communities interested in becoming recipients of this loan program may call or write its treasurer, Alan Warren, Box 17124, Philadelphia, PA 19105 (215) 467-3730. Those

wishing to make tax deductible contributions to C E S C I should also contact Alan Warren, as C E S C I wants to be of more service to communities by being able to give larger loans.

## Book Reviews

by Jane Folmer

THE INDEFENSIBLE SOCIETY by William Becker, Lorian Press, 1982, 34 pp., \$2.50. Available from Community Service for list price plus 75¢ postage. Reduced price of \$2.25 effective until the conference July 16.

"The Indefensible Society" is a small booklet with a big message. William Becker has succeeded (in only 34 pages) in pinpointing the true sources of our national insecurity: worldwide human suffering; haphazard environmental destruction; unstable resource supplies; highly centralized and vulnerable military, economic and authority centers; and apocalyptic military technology.

But even more importantly he has presented realistic and effective responses to these "time bombs," each one of which is armed and ticking. The sound of the ticking is apparently becoming audible to more and more ears. Some people believe the message of the song, "A Country Boy Can Survive" and are trying to find places located furthest away from possible targets. A great debate developed in Philadelphia over the value of a city-wide emergency evacuation plan in case of nuclear attack. The bipartisan resolution introduced in Congress March 10 which called for the United States and the Soviet Union to freeze their atomic arsenals was enthusiastically endorsed by state legislatures and city councils across the nation.

William Becker explains that the only possible assurance of survival is to bring an end to the escalation of our own self-destructive fears. His solutions to mankind's most critical dilemmas are not easy, but they are comfortingly simple and workable:

"In truth, genuine national defense is intertwined with social and human needs. The decentralization of energy, food and industrial production not only returns a measure of control to people and their communities, it also makes the nation less vulnerable to disruption and attack. The development and use of renewable

resources...decreases our dependence on foreign governments so that we are not easily crippled by supply cutoffs or drawn into resource wars.... Negotiating complete nuclear disarmament, we eliminate an arms race which grows steadily more expensive and dangerous.... By making environmental protection and restoration a continuing priority, we can stabilize the nation's life-support systems to avoid future sources of insecurity: among them the depletion of soils, drinkable water, forests, clean air, wildlife habitat and plants critical to the health of the ecosystem....

We can refocus our foreign policy to promote not dependence, but self-sufficiency among other nations. We thereby contribute to global stability while cultivating friendships based not on dependence but on partnership and strength...."

"Finally, the responsibility for initiating change belongs to individuals. That is clear in a new paradigm characterized by decentralized authority, accent on individual creativity and genius, appreciation for human potential and, at the same time, a strong ethic of community.... Actions and values such as resource conservation, respect for life, and insistence that we live without the shadow of Armageddon, the fostering of self-sufficiency, the use of native and renewable resources, the resolve to contribute national wealth and technology to the elimination of avoidable human suffering cannot be legislated. They are matters of personal, conscious choice."



#### SELF RELIANCE JOURNAL: COOPERATIVES

Southwest Research and Information Center, New Mexico, 1982, 15 pp., \$1.25. Available from Community Service for list price plus 75¢ postage.

This special issue of "Self Reliance Journal" was first published as a supplement to the Jan.-Feb. 1982 issue of "The Workbook," a bimonthly periodical from Southwest Research and Information Center. This brief 15 page report on the status of co-ops provides both the how and why of this popular and historically valid economic alternative.

A little history, a little philosophy and a few pertinent statistics are provided for those new to the co-op concept. It is pointed out that although the function, the organization and the

philosophical tenets of both producer and consumer co-ops vary a great deal, most are based on 6 principles developed by the Rochdale Society in England in 1844:

"...one man, one vote; limited interest on capital; membership education; profit sharing; open membership; and cooperation among cooperatives."

Emphasis is given to the cooperation between co-ops and the assistance that is available through various networks of federations around the country. Names and addresses of 39 Regional Co-op Federations are listed along with 8 consumer co-op alliances. For those interested in specific aspects of co-ops, a bibliography is also included.

#### ECOLOGICAL USE OF THE LAND

The School of Living Land Committee has prepared a booklet which details a gentle approach to the human use of the earth's resources. It tells how a Community Land Trust and land users might interact in the best interest of the land itself while achieving modest material desires becoming to our species. This booklet will be a useful guide to all those concerned about environmentally sound use of the earth.

Copies are available for \$2.50 plus 50¢ postage from Heathcote Center, 21300 Heathcote Road, Freeland, MD 21053.



## Readers Write

#### ABOUT "THE INDEFENSIBLE SOCIETY"

Once in a while I read something which is so good that I begin to give away my copy almost as fast as I can replace it. I find myself wishing that everyone could read it. "If only everyone read, assimilated and practised accordingly," I muse, "humanity and its environment would be on the way to salvation, and find salvation in the process."

I want others to read the Becker book, The Indefensible Society, so that, for one thing, they can choose the right Congressperson. I want him/her to read it because he/she will become

an educator of his/her constituents, and together they will make intelligent, humanly necessary things happen. Scope will be given for the utmost of self-realization. At the same time opportunity will be widened for new social structuring, from which fresh personal insights and cooperative ventures can blossom. Resources will be saved, cultivated and channelled.

A key concept of this book -- its claim to newness, infact -- is "holistic." Turned into action, this guiding principle brings transformation both redeeming and exploratory.

So the best I can say is, do read The Indefensible Society. It may move you to come to the Community Service Conference July 16-18 at which the author, William Becker, will speak and lead discussion. We can be sure his ideas have been developing further during the interval. So will ours. As he indicates, we have here the "perennial philosophy" which points to divinity at the heart of the mundane -- outer and inner coming together not just in our heads but in reality.

--Christine Wise, Ohio

#### ABOUT FOLK SCHOOLS

We appreciated your March-April issue very much and am sending it on to our son, Dr. C.H. Lushbough of Glenview, Illinois, who spent the school year of 1949-50 in Danish Folk Schools as a student, an experience he has greatly prized ever since, both from an educational and cultural standpoint. He still visits families in Denmark whenever he has opportunity.

--L.E. Lushbough, Montana

#### NOTICE

##### ADDRESS CHANGES

You can save Community Service time and money by notifying us when you move. If you leave it to the post office to tell us, they return your NEWSLETTER to us with your new address if they have it, but it costs us an additional 45¢ in postage alone. It also delays our NEWSLETTER as much as a month. Please give us your old address as well as the new one so we can find you in our zip-coded files.



MEMBERSHIP is a means of supporting and sharing the work of Community Service. The basic \$15 annual membership contribution includes a subscription to our NEWSLETTER. Larger contributions are always needed, however, and smaller ones will also be accepted. COMMUNITY SERVICE, INC., is a non-profit corporation which depends on contributions so that it can offer its services freely to those who need them. All contributions are appreciated, needed and are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. If you want your NEWSLETTER sent airmail overseas, please send \$20. All foreign members including Canadian please pay in U.S. currency.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE

We not only welcome letters to the editor, but articles about any exceptional communities you know of or people who are doing unusual things to improve the life in their towns. Anyone submitting an article should enclose a self-addressed envelope if he/she wishes it returned if we cannot use it.

#### CONSULTATION

Community Service makes no set charge for consultation services formal or informal, but can only serve through contributions of its friends and those it helps. For consultation we suggest a minimum contribution equal to that of the consultant's hourly wage for an hour of our time.

#### DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND?

Do you have a friend who might be interested in Community Service's work and publications? One of the most helpful ways of supporting CS is to send the names and addresses of friends who you think should receive a sample of our NEWSLETTER and a copy of our booklist. If you wish a specific issue of our NEWSLETTER sent to your friends, please send 35¢ postage per name.

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